

Four Hundred elementary school kids taught in one Week

A study in organization, co-ordination and timing - done by 12:00 noon on Friday.

On Monday, October 7th - 2013 at Ecole LaRonde elementary school – in South Surrey BC – a 100 % immersion French school embarked on an adventure with bcpickleballassoc to teach their students this new sport that is ,fastest growing in North America , and not just with Seniors . The objective was to get each student from K- 7 (400 kids) two 30 minute teaching sessions – the third to be a tournament with gold , silver and bronze medals for upper 6/7”s and lower 4/ 5”s . This tournament would be played at center court in the gym surrounded by students, teachers and parents on both sides. We would use three portable sets on courts dotted and chalked outside on an adjacent basketball court which was not much used. This would allow for more student play time and lesson practice with large classes (31 tops). Of course , use of these courts would be weather dependent.

Well, how did it go ? The first day, an announcement was made that a tourney would occur, kids would be paired, boy with girl for the last day. A schedule of teachers, and class ages was presented . The level 1 outline posted on www.bcpickleball.com was followed, however abbreviated, as this is normally a 4 session course plus tourney on the fifth session – so abbreviated lessons were conducted. In spite of this, all students got to game. All eligible pairs (grades 4-7) played with their partners and the scores were tabulated Win / loss and by what margin. Winners by class played down with the other classes and by 11:20 AM on Friday the 11th of Oct the Championship was held at center court in the gym with students, teachers and parents attending – some 500 in total.

Hence this was the largest Pickleball I tournament held this year in Canada , as the USAPA / IFP tournament in Abbotsford had approx 150 and the Canadian Pickleball Federation / Quebec sponsored Tournament in Repentigny had 96. This means the figures quoted in the current newsletter of Pickleball Canada by Mr Sheppard are grossly understated. In addition , all public high schools in Surrey alone and all Private high schools in this community all teach pickleball . How many do you think graduate each year, knowing how to play?

The Principal , Madame Fortin , and I handed out the gold , silver and bronze medals , there was a

prize for the best cheer . The play was outstanding for one hour of instruction. We were finished by noon and went for lunch with all the volunteers who deserve many thanks . (14) participated in this effort and well over 140 over the past eight years . They are recognized on the Thanks page of

www.bcpickleball.com

I encourage all of the 206 instructors in BC to continue this teaching effort in their communities as we, as seniors have the time and numbers to do something for the schools that the teachers cannot do – Monitor Each Court with a senior helper who can help the kids as they require aid and thus increase the learning curve. For a “ lifetime sport “ like pickleball the cost/ benefits are great.

Good luck with giving back to the kids ! Happy Thanks Day !

Yours in Sport and Health,

Chuck Lefaive

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Your comments are welcome

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